REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 6 are independent.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Independent claim 1

Independent claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Baker (U.S. 5,793,954). We submit, however, that Baker does not disclose or suggest a "method for triggering by means of a digital processing device, at least one action on digital communication data when they belong to one and the same semantic flow for which said action is designed, wherein the method comprises: feeding the device with at least one filter having three possible states which result from one or more conditions on one or more protocol attributes specified for said semantic flow, a valid state corresponding to protocol attribute values which confirm that said condition or conditions are satisfied, an invalid state corresponding to protocol attribute values which confirm that said condition or conditions are not satisfied, an uncertain state corresponding to an absence of protocol attribute values to confirm that said condition or conditions are or are not satisfied, each protocol attribute being specified by an ordered sequence of protocol names used in the semantic flow and by a parameter name conveyed by a protocol whose name is indicated in said ordered sequence of protocol names; applying the three-state filter to said communication data as long as these data have not afforded protocol attribute values other than those from which said uncertain state of the filter results; and triggering said action when said valid state of the filter results from protocol attribute values afforded by the communication data," as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, Baker does not disclose or suggest the step of "triggering said action when said valid state of the filter results from protocol attribute values afforded by the communication data," as recited in claim 1. One aim of Baker's network interface system is "to perform any of a number of data manipulation functions (for example, parsing, filtering, data generation or analysis functions) based upon one or more programmably configurable protocol descriptions which may be stored in and retrieved

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from an associated memory" (Baker col. 2, lines 42-47). In other words, after the filtering step, Baker's system merely implements the step of data generation or analysis without the step of "triggering said action," such as triggering "an action which blocks the transfer of the data to their receiver and informs the sender of this blockage" (Applicant's Specification p. 16, lines 18-20). In fact, one aim of Applicant's invention is to trigger actions on the communication data independently of the application or applications (see, e.g., Specification p. 5, lines 33-35). Thus, the limitation of "triggering said action when said valid state of the filter results from protocol attribute values afforded by the communication data," as recited in claim 1, is clearly not disclosed or suggested in Baker. Furthermore, referring to said action of claim 1, a user can define a new action to be triggered for a particular semantic flow (see, e.g., Specification p. 22, line 36 – p. 23, line 5), which is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Baker.

Additionally, the step of "feeding the device with at least one filter having three possible states which result from one or more conditions on one or more protocol attributes specified for said semantic flow, a valid state…, an invalid state…, an uncertain state…," as recited in independent claim 1, is also not disclosed or suggested in Baker. Baker's filter comprises two states: PASS_FRAME and FILTER_FRAME (see, e.g., Baker col. 10, lines 14-21). That is, after parsing the frame, Baker's filter either accepts the frame or discards the frame without considering the uncertain state. Baker clearly does not disclose or suggest "feeding the device with at least one filter having three possible states…, a valid state…, an invalid state…, [and] an uncertain state…," as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Baker. Since claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, claims 1-5 are patentable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claim 6

Independent claim 6 was also rejected as anticipated by Baker. We submit that Baker does not disclose or suggest a "computer system for triggering at least one action

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on digital communication data when they belong to one and the same semantic flow for which said action is designed, wherein the system comprises: a digital processing device comprising a filtering engine and an actions engine; a database for feeding the filtering engine with at least one filter having three possible states which result from one or more conditions on one or more protocol attributes specified for said semantic flow; at least one data structure for cataloguing a valid state corresponding to protocol attribute values which confirm that said condition or conditions are satisfied, an invalid state corresponding to protocol attribute values which confirm that said condition or conditions are not satisfied, an uncertain state corresponding to an absence of protocol attribute values to confirm that said condition or conditions are or are not satisfied, each protocol attribute being specified by an ordered sequence of protocol names used in the semantic flow and by a parameter name conveyed by a protocol whose name is indicated in said ordered sequence of protocol names; means for receiving communication data, useable by the filtering engine to apply each necessary filter to said communication data as long as these data have not afforded any protocol attribute value other than those from which said uncertain state of the filter results; and means of transmission of the communication data, useable by the action engine to trigger said action when said valid state is contained in the data structure," as recited in independent claim 6.

        In particular, as discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Baker does not disclose or suggest a "means of transmission of the communication data useable by the action engine to trigger said action when said valid state is contained in the data structure," as recited in claim 6. Baker's system merely implements the step of data generation or analysis without the need to "trigger said action." Furthermore, as discussed above, Baker does not disclose or suggest "at least one data structure for cataloguing a valid state…, an invalid state…, an uncertain state," as recited in claim 6. Instead, Baker's filter comprises two states (see, e.g., Baker col. 10, lines 14-21) and does not consider the uncertain state.

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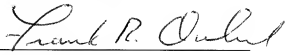Filed : May 19, 2005
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For at least the above reasons, we submit that independent claim 6 is patentable over Baker. Since claims 7-10 depend from claim 6, claims 7-10 are patentable for at least the same reason claims 6 is patentable.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-4189, referencing Attorney Docket No. 35201-003US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 26, 2008

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